

RESOURCE PROTECTION AND STEWARDSHIP UNIT



Red River / Devils Lake Basin

Land and Water Stewardship



Watershed Resource Issues:

- International issues related to compliance with Boundary Waters Treaty between US and Canada including water quality, water quantity, and biota transfer, Devils Lake outlet and inlet issues, inter-basin water diversion projects, coordination with the State Department.
- Wetlands draining, preservation, restoration, outreach.
- Continued building in floodplain and wetlands draining for farming and nonpoint discharge agricultural issues.
- Threatened and endangered species, wildlife habitat and bird migration.
- Leadership and strategic planning issues among various groups.
- Growth in Fargo.
- Major differences and coordination challenges between ND and MN on source water protection, TMDLs, and monitoring.



Red River of the North

Recent EPA Efforts:

- Promote land stewardship in the Red River/Devils Lake Basin

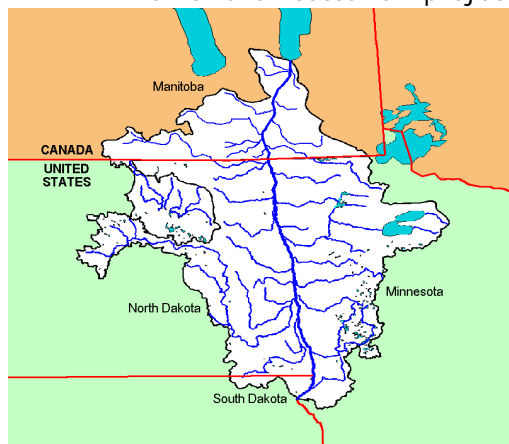
Provide technical assistance and funding for **watershed planning**.

Regional Geographic Initiative (RGI) funded *Greenway on the Red*, a **600 mile Greenway** project from SD to Lake Winnipeg and coordinated with the Canadian Greenway.

Conservation Agriculture "Farm the Best, Restore the Rest" -**wetlands** funding (2 years) and Environmental Priorities Program funds to the ND Wetlands Trust.

RGI grant to The Nature Conservancy in MN for developing a master plan for the **largest tall grass prairie restoration in the country** for Glacial Ridge near Crookston.

Devils Lake **Ecotourism** project-funded with Environmental Priorities Program funds.



Red River of the North watershed area.

Ecological Community Survey funded within the Red River/Devils Lake Basin funded with RGI.

NEPA and **NPDES** reviews for Devils Lake outlet/inlet (EPA is a cooperating agency) and Red River Valley Water Supply.

Red River Reconnaissance Study-coordination with the Army COE.

Riparian restoration and wetland assessment.

EPA Region 8's Ongoing Efforts:

- Encourage a basin management and coordination approach.

Integration and coordination between various groups.

(Ongoing Efforts continued)

Participation in International Joint Commission (IJC) and International Red River Board and new aquatic ecosystem and hydrology committees (**Boundary Waters Treaty**).

Watershed Information Network-\$100K from HQ Office of Water for 2 years to work on **watershed** coordination, **education** and outreach including a quarterly newsletter, and **TMDL** and **source water** coordination, project is closely coordinated with other EPA funded projects.



Red River flooding in Grand Forks, ND
Photo courtesy of USGS

- **Develop education and outreach partnerships with focus on monitoring efforts.**

River Keepers-2 **volunteer monitoring** train-the-trainer sessions funded with RGI.

Red River **Biological Monitoring** Workgroup-RGI project to establish protocols for muddy-bottom rivers.

Tribal and **Brownfields** work with Spirit Lake Nation.

\$400K EMPACT project working with the Energy and Environmental Research Center, RiverKeepers and Prairie Public Broadcasting on water quality and river public awareness.

Red River Valley **storm water** work group funded with NPDES water quality funds.

ND **Industrial Pretreatment** Assistance Program funded with NPDES water quality funds.

Discover a Watershed: The Red River Kids activity booklet.

Brownfields awareness and Brownfields pilot scoping.



Devils Lake flooding

Upcoming Issues

- IJC Boundary Waters Treaty Compliance and Canadian concerns about water quality and biota transfer-Premier Doer alliance with Governors of MN, MO, and Great Lakes States.
- Adequacy of NEPA documents for Devils Lake Emergency Outlet-EIS comments due April 2002.
- Review of proposed State-constructed Devils Lake outlet.
- Maple River Dam (tributary of the RR) EIS environmentally-unacceptable letter sent to Corps of Engineers January 2002.

For more information about EPA Region's activities in the Red River/Devils Lake basin, please contact Stacey Eriksen at 303-312-6692 or email eriksen.stacey@epa.gov